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nodes, and racemes; lecture upon transpiration, respiration, photosynthesis and osmotic pressure; and would then drop the poor mangled thing and tread it in the dust." That such a person should write a textbook sounds dreadfully familiar to us, but, "It resembled a treatise upon engineering: it treated the flowers as if they were articles of commerce made in Birmingham."

The book is full of flower lore and the love of flowers that is an almost lost art among some professional botanists. Many notes on the cultivation of rare and beautiful plants will be helpful to the wild gardener, and the chapter on the "Higher Sportsmanship" will be balm for those interested in the preservation of wild plants. Not only in England but all through the Alps the author leads the reader to that quieter enjoyment of flowers and their haunts of which he knows so well, and about which he writes so beautifully. Unfortunately most American readers will lose much of the charm of the many allusions, they are so peculiarly local and insular, and this is to be regretted, as some of them are of a delightfully whimsical turn.

The book is to be most earnestly commended to all nature lovers and to those botanists who have the wit to understand.  
—ED.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

NOVEMBER 10, 1914

The meeting for November 10, 1914, was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. President Harper presided. One hundred persons were present.

The program for the evening consisted of an illustrated lecture on "The Life History of a Tree," by Dr. C. Stuart Gager.

Adjournment followed.

B. O. DODGE,  
*Secretary.*

NOVEMBER 25, 1914

The meeting of November 25, 1914, was held in the morphological laboratory of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:30

P.M. with President Harper presiding. Twenty-five persons were present.

The minutes of the meetings of October 13, October 28 and November 10 were read and approved.

The following persons were nominated for membership: Miss Edna Baer, 510 W. 170 St., New York City, Miss Helene Boas, Grantwood, N. J., Miss Mary Stewart, Barnard College, Mr. Clifford Farr, Columbia University, Mr. Ralph Stewart, Columbia University, and Mr. Cecil Yampolsky, Columbia University.

Dr. Howe brought up for consideration the question of the advisability of accepting for publication as Part III of Vol. 14 of the Memoirs a paper by Mr. F. L. Pickett. By a vote of the Club the matter was referred to the Budget Committee with instructions to report at the annual meeting in January. The following were then elected to membership: Misses Grace Stewart, Edna Baer, Helene Boas, Mary Stewart and Messrs. M. A. Raines, R. C. Faulwetter, Clifford Farr, Ralph Stewart, and Cecil Yampolsky.

The first number on the announced scientific program consisted of a paper "Phylogenetische Betrachtungen über Algen" by Prof. Dr. N. Wille.

Dr. Wille began by criticizing the present-day methods in determining phylogenies and followed this with an outline of a natural classification of the Thallophytes especially the algae.

Under the title, "Note on a Fresh-water *Cladophora* from Porto Rico," Dr. M. A. Howe showed and discussed briefly a peculiar specimen collected in a river near Juana Diaz by Mrs. N. L. Britton and Miss Delia Marble in March, 1913. The filaments, which often reach a length of 5-8 cm. without showing any branches and have a diameter of 200-300  $\mu$ , were evidently attached by well-developed basal holdfasts. The plant was at first taken for a *Chaetomorpha*, but Prof. N. Wille, to whom it was submitted, found on some of the filaments very short branches, represented for the most part by a simple evagination just below a septum, but in one case reaching a length of three cells. The walls of the main filament are very thick and encrusted, while those of the short branches are much thinner.

The plant is accordingly believed to represent the resting condition of some *Cladophora* which at some other season or under other conditions might be found to branch more freely and perhaps present a very different appearance. So far as may be judged from the material at hand the plant is allied to the almost branchless *Cladophora insignis* Kutz. and *C. setiformis* Kutz.

Prof. T. E. Hazen then gave informally some "Notes on *Uronema*." The results of his studies on a species of this genus will be published in one of the Club's periodicals.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,  
Secretary.

DECEMBER 8, 1914

The meeting of December 8, 1914, was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. President Harper presided. Twenty-five persons were present.

The lecture of the evening was given by Dr. John H. Barnhart on "Carnivorous Plants." The speaker classified carnivorous plants under two main types. In the first type the food-animals are captured in a cage-like trap, which may have originated in some structure such as the enlarged leaf-bases of *Tillandsia*. This type was illustrated by the buds of *Bartsia*, the scales of *Lathraea*, the "bladders" of *Utricularia* and *Genlisea*, and the highly specialized "pitchers" of *Cephalotus*, *Heliamphora*, *Sarracenia*, *Chrysamphora*, and *Nepenthes*. The other type may be compared to a snare in its adaptation to the capture of animal food; it originated, possibly, in a merely viscid-glandular surface such as occurs in some species of *Silene*, *Saxifraga*, *Roridula*, and many other plants; is more strikingly developed in *Pinguicula*, *Byblis*, *Drosophyllum*, and *Drosera*; and culminates in the marvellous spring-traps of *Aldrovanda* and *Dionaea*.

The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides, and was followed by a discussion.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,  
Secretary.

DECEMBER 21, 1914

A special meeting of the Club was held in the lecture room of the New York Botanical Garden, December 21, 1914, at which forty persons were present. Vice-President Barnhart presided.

An illustrated lecture on "Some New Ideas Regarding Lichens," under the title "Lichens" was given by Dr. Bruce Fink.

Dr. Fink gave a brief historical survey from the time lichens were regarded as mosses, algae, or fungi to the present time when research seems to have established the belief that the lichen is a fungus parasitic on an alga. In proof of this position, the relation of the lichen to its algal host was considered briefly. Following this, work on the taxonomy of the Collemaceae, based upon the supposition that these plants are fungi, was presented by lantern-slides. The cortex, the medulla, the reproductive areas, and the structure of various parts of the apothecium were discussed with a view to showing their various values as taxonomic characters. Such interesting features,—transitional forms showing how a cortex may have arisen, the varying degree of development of cortices, the methods and degrees of branching of paraphyses, and the presence of internal spermatia were considered. Finally the old and the new types of lichen diagnoses were presented and compared.

Adjournment followed.

B. O. DODGE,  
*Secretary.*

#### NEWS ITEMS

It is difficult to get information about botanists who are serving in their respective armies during the war, but from Germany some news has come through. According to the *Evening Post* the Berlin *Tageblatt* has an interesting article on the botanists in the field. One of the most eminent of those who early took up arms, Dr. Brandt, has fallen in battle, on the Russian frontier. He hurried to the front from the Spanish Sierra Nevada, where he had been collecting plants. His dissertation on "Der morphologische Bau der Weinstockgewächse" at once attracted the attention of the learned world. Dr. Brandt was barely thirty